

ANACONDA Minerals Company
New Mexico Operations
P.O. Box 638
Grants, New Mexico 87020
Telephone 505 876 2211

December 15, 1982

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1982

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Mr. Marc Nelson
Minerals Management Service
South Central Region
505 Marquette Avenue, N.W., Suite 815
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

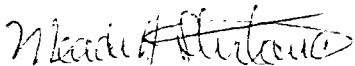
Dear Marc:

In your November 17, 1982, Minutes of our November 9th and 10th Jackpile-Paguete Technical Committee meetings, you reference on Page 3 that Anaconda will honor their commitment to backfill the west end of the North Paguate Pit to flood plain level, although this backfilling was not included in their reclamation plan.

We don't believe that that statement alone reflects Anaconda's entire position. The Green Book, as submitted, is all inclusive as to our reclamation offer and is in lieu of all prior reclamation offers or commitments, including the Blue Book, Red Book, Orange Book, and other mining plan commitments. The reason why the flood plain backfill in that portion of the North Paguate Pit was excluded from the current proposed reclamation plan was, because after evaluating the amount of irrigable land available to the Pueblo of Laguna, it became apparent that there was more irrigable land available than there was water to irrigate it with. As a result, creating more irrigable land within the mine site created no real post-reclamation benefit to the Pueblo of Laguna and could not be economically justified. If the current proposed reclamation plan is disproved and Anaconda is required to prepare another reclamation plan, we will honor the commitment to backfill that portion of the North Paguate Pit to flood plain level or offer an alternative plan.

Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Meade A. Stirland, Manager
Environment, Health & Safety

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Enclosures

cc: Governor Early ✓

Xerox Copy to Ron J. Solimon